

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 201964
ORIGIN EUR-12

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DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:VGRAY:BJR

APPROVED BY EUR/CE:WMWOESSNER

EUR/RPM:JKORNBLUM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 201964

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, GE

SUBJECT: GDR CHARGE ON CSCE COMMISSION REPORT

REF: (A) STATE 182408 (B) BERLIN 6651

1. FOLLOWING DEPARTMENT DEMARCHEON VAN NORMAN ARREST
CASE, GDR CHARGE MONTAG RAISED QUESTION OF CSCE COMMISSION
REPORT "TWO YEAR" AFTER HELSINKI" AND SOUGHT REAFFIRMATION
OF GDR'S UNDERSTANDING; BASED ON EMBASSY'S AUGUST 5
APPROACH (REFTELS), THAT REPORT DOES NOT NECESSARILY
REFLECT OFFICIAL USG POSITION GOING INTO BELGRADE. HE
WAS INFORMED BY WOESSNER, EUR/CE, THAT HIS UNDERSTANDING
IS CORRECT AND THAT OFFICIAL USG POSITION IS CONVEYED
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PAGE 02 STATE 201964

BY AMBASSADOR SHERER WOESSNER REMINDED MONTAG, HOWEVER,
THAT CONGRESSMAN FASCELL AND THE COMMISSION REFLECT A
STRONG PUBLIC OPINION THAT CANNOT BE IGNORED BY PRESIDENT
IN FORMULATING USG POSITION. IN THIS REGARD, WOESSNER
OFFERED HIS OPINION THAT GDR AND EE STATES HAD MADE A
MISTAKE IN NOT RECEIVING FASCELL COMMITTEE, SINCE THEY
HAD THUS LOST AN OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT THEIR POINT OF

VIEW -- A POINT OF VIEW WHICH THEY WERE NOW COMPLAINING IS NOT ADEQUATELY REPRESENTED IN THE REPORT; MONTAG SAID THAT, IN RETROSPECT, IT PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER TO RECEIVE COMMITTEE BUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN TOO LITTLE

TIME TO CHANGE INITIALLY NEGATIVE ATTITUDES. THE GDR, HE CONTINUED, SEEKS BETTER CONTACTS WITH CONGRESS AND DOES NOT SEEK TO HINDER CONGRESSIONAL VISITS OR INTER-PARLIAMENTARY CONTACTS. RECENT VISITS TO EE BY SENATOR MCGOVERN AND OTHER CONGRESSMEN, HE ADDED, HAD HAD "GOOD EFFECTS".

2. TURNING TO THE CONTENTS OF THE REPORT, MONTAG EXPRESSED OFFICIAL "DISAPPOINTMENT, ESPECIALLY OVER CRITICISM OF "CERTAIN ASPECTS OF LEGAL SYSTEM" (I.E., PASSPORT PROCEDURES). HE ALSO CRITICIZED REFERENCES TO 100,000 EXIT VISA APPLICATIONS TO GDR "HINDERING" OF APPLICATIONS IN JANUARY; AND TO GDR INSECURITY IN FACE OF GROWING EAST-WEST TRAFFIC. DISCUSSIONS OF SUCH "DOMESTIC PROBLEMS", HE SAID, WERE "NOT VERY EFFECTIVE". THE REPORT, HE CONTINUED, WAS NOT "BALANCED" IN THAT IT CONTAINED NOTHING ON BASKET I AND VERY LITTLE ON BASKET II. ACCORDING TO MONTAG, IT ALSO CONTAINED A NUMBER OF FACTUAL ERRORS RELATING TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE LATTER, HE CITED, THE REPORT'S CRITICISM OF THE GDR ON THE QUESTION OF TRADE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 201964

OFFICES (THERE IS, AS HE NOTED, A DOW OFFICE IN BERLIN.) ARGUMENTS ABOUT SUCH FACTS, HE SAID, WERE "NOT SUPPORTIVE OF A CONSTRUCTIVE ATMOSPHERE". WOESSNER AGREED ON THE DESIRABILITY OF AVOIDING ARGUMENTS, BUT POINTED OUT THAT THE FASCELL COMMITTEE HAD HELD EXHAUSTIVE HEARINGS. WHILE HE (WOESSNER) DID NOT WISH TO RAKE OVER OLD COALS, THERE WAS, HE FELT, LITTLE ROOM TO DISPUTE THE REPORT'S MAIN FINDINGS WHICH REFLECT "REAL CONCERNS."

3. MONTAG MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WISHED TO SOUND AN UPBEAT NOTE. THE GDR, HE SAID, WANTED TO "START BELGRADE WITH A GOOD MOOD". THE PREPARATORY MEETINGS IN BELGRADE HAD BEEN "SUCCESSFUL" IN THAT A "COMPROMISE" HAD BEEN REACHED. AVOIDANCE OF TOO NARROW A FOCUS ON ONE ISSUE AND AN AGENDA THAT PROVIDED FOR DISCUSSION OF ALL BASKETS HAD PROVIDED THE "BASIS FOR A CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH".

4. CITING HIS OWN SELF-PROCLAIMED BACKGROUND IN EAST-WEST AFFAIRS AND REFERRING TO "USEFUL" CONVERSATIONS LAST WEEK WITH JOHN KORNBLUM, EUR/RPM, MONTAG MADE A PITCH FOR A FURTHER "EXCHANGE OF VIEWS" ON CSCE BEFORE BELGRADE. WOESSNER AGREED THAT SUCH AN EXCHANGE WOULD BE USEFUL AND

PROMISED TO BE IN TOUCH.

5. COMMENT. MONTAG'S PRESENTATION WAS FAIRLY MILD EXPRESSION OF "DISAPPOINTMENT", STRESSING POSITIVE AND AVOIDING COUNTER ATTACKS. IN PART AND IN ABSENCE OF RESPONSE TO GDR'S CSCE DEMARCHE, IT PROBABLY REPRESENTS

A SINCERE EAST GERMAN EFFORT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT USG THINKING ON CSCE. IT MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN DESIGNED SIMPLY TO ADD ANOTHER ITEM TO AGENDA THAT MONTAG MUST HAVE ANTICIPATED WOULD PLACE HIM ON DEFENSIVE.

6. DEPARTMENT WOULD BE WILLING TO CONDUCT FURTHER EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH GDR ON CSCE. JOHN KORNBLUM WILL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 201964

BE IN EUROPE IN SEPTEMBER AND WOULD BE ABLE TO COME TO BERLIN FOR SUCH DISCUSSIONS. MOST CONVENIENT DATES WOULD BE SEPTEMBER 13 OR 14. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO SUGGEST SEPTEMBER DATES TO GDR FOREIGN MINISTRY.

CHRISTOPHER

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